

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0249

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETINGS:
THE FUTURE OF 1503

1. AT A MEETING OF REPS OF 13 WEO NATIONS IN NYC JAN 26
TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC). IT WAS
GENERALL AGREED THAT EVERY EFFORT OUGHT TO BE MADE TO MANDATE
SOME SORT OF STUDY OR COMMUNICATION WITH SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS
UNDER 1503, BUT THAT SINCE 1503 WAS DESIGNED TO HANDLE
PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER SOURCES
OF INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS, OTHER MEANS OF
INTRODUCING COUNTRY CASE PROBLEMS OUGHT NOT TO BE IGNORED.
IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT UNDER 1503 THE HRC COULD RECEIVE THE REPORTS
OF THE SUB-COMMISSION AND INTER ALIA, 1) NAME A WORKING GROUP TO
INVESTIGATE THE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE SUB-COMMISSION,
2) NAME A RAPPORTEUR TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT
INVODED, 3) ASK THE SYG TO OFFER HIS GOOD OFFICES, OR 4)
SEND A COMMUNICATION FROM THE HRC ITSELF TO THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED
ASKING FOR INFORMATION. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT 1) AND 2)
INVOLVE BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS, AND THEREFORE WOULD HAVE
TO BECOME PUBLIC BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED
TO ECOSOC FOR APPROVAL. THIS IS A FURTHER FORM OF LEVERAGE FOR
THE HRC, AND COULD BE USED FOR NEGOTIATION PURPOSES.

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2. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID IN-
FLAMMATORY CONDEMNATIONS, AND WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF 1503,
SECURE THE COOPERATION TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE OF THE
GOVERNMENT INVOLVED. IT WAS POINTED OUT AND AGREED THAT
THIS CAN BEST BE DONE BY ESTABLISHING CONTACT, BEFORE THE
ACTURAL DISCUSSION ON THE NATIONS BEGINS UNDER 1503. IT WAS

POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJOR LEVERAGE AVAILABLE TO PERSUADE STATES TO COOPERATE IS THE FEAR OF HAVING THE ISSUE RAISED PUBLICLY AND THE CONSEQUENT LOSS OF NATIONAL IMAGE.

3. THE FRG FAVERED ASKING THE BUREAU TO DESIGNATE A PARTICULAR WEEK FOR 1503 DISCUSSION SO THAT THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED COULD PLAN TO HAVE AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL PRESENT TO RESPOND. THE DANISH REP SUGGESTED THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK OF THE MEETING. BOTH THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE WELL SUPPORTED BY THE REST, AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THIS WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF "PRE-COOKED" RESOLUTIONS WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN ALLEGATIONS OF THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS WOULD ALSO MEET A CONCERN VOICED BY THE UK REP THAT THE HRC MIGHT NEVER REACH ITEM 12.

4. THE AUSTRALIAN MENTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE UN CONTINUED TO SPEAK ONLY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT THEY NEEDED FOR DOMESTIC REASONS TO SHOW THAT THE UN COULD AT LEAST DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS. ALL AGREED THE PROBLEM WAS COMMON, AND THE INTEGRITY OF UN PROCEDURES WAS SUSPECT UNLESS THERE WAS MORE BALANCE. THE TWO "BEST" CANDIDATES TO BALANCE OFF AGAINST CHILE APPEARED TO BE CAMBODIA AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

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5. COMMENT: USUN ALSO BELIEVES THAT FOR EACH NATION A DESIRED AND MEASURED RESPONSE SHOULD BE SUGGESTED BY THE USDEL, IN KEEPING WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM, AND THAT THIS SUGGESTION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT INVOLVED BEFOREHAND WITH THE URGENT REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT COOPERATE WITH THE HRC TO PREVENT THE ISSUE FROM BECOMING PUBLIC. FURTHERMORE, USUN BELIEVES THAT WE COULD WELL DISCREETLY SUGGEST THE FORMATION OF SOME INFORMAL "CONTACT GROUPS" TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED, I.E., A CONTACT GROUP OF NIGERIA, SWEDEN, AND CANADA TO NEGOTIATE WITH UGANDA. (NIGERIA BECAUSE IT HAS EXPRESSED MUCH INTEREST, CANADA, BECAUSE THE CANADIANS HAVE ALREADY MADE THE DECISION TO PUT FORWARD THE UGANDAN ISSUE, AND THE SWedes, BECAUSE THEY WILL REPRESENT THE NORDICS(WHO LED ON THE ISSUE AT THE LAST GA) IN THE HRC.).

7. THE NATIONS THAT MAY COME UP UNDER 1503 THIS YEAR ARE:
CHILE, ETHIOPIA, INDONESIA, PARAGUAY, UGANDA, URUGUAY,
EQUATORIAL GUINEA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND MALAWI.
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